GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2311
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2014
SHORTAGE OF FARM LABOURERS
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Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the shortage of farm labourers is being constantly felt in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has also diverted farm labourers to other sectors of jobs; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard along with the success achieved therein?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) & (b): Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey (NSS) Office, Ministry of Statistics &Programme Implementation. According to the last 3 surveys, the workforce grew from 45.91 crore in 2004-05 to 47.41 crore persons in 2011-12 and the sector-wise employment is given below:-

(In crore persons)

Workforce by Major Sector	2004-05	2009-10	2011-12
Agriculture & Allied	26.83	24.74	23.18
Industry	8.35	10.00	11.50
Services	10.73	11.81	12.73
Total	45.91	46.55	47.41

The estimates of workforce by major sector show an increase in the overall level of employment a decrease in the primary sector and increase in the secondary and tertiary sectors.

(c) & (d): As informed by Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Rural Development, the primary objective of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA) is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing upto 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a year to every household on demand for doing unskilled manual work. The objective MGNREGA is to supplement the income of a rural household and it is not intended to be the sole means of earning livelihood for the rural population. The workers are free to avail any other employment opportunity available to them. One of the studies has reported that there has been a reduction in distress migration consequent upon implementation of MGNREGA.

Government has taken various steps like encouraging private sector of economy, fast tracking various projects involving substantial investment and increasing public expenditure on schemes like Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) run by Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), Pt. Deen DayalUpadhyayaGrameenKaushalyaYojana (DDU-GKY) scheme run by Ministry of Rural Development and National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) run by Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.